

Montana Historical Society Research Center: Library, Archives, and Photo Archives

Educational Resources and ILL Opportunities

The Montana Historical Society Research Center offers several means of supporting student research.

- Assistance with research: email mhslibrary@mt.gov with questions.
- First 10 copies are free for students!
- Oral histories are available through Interlibrary Loan
- Newspaper microfilm available through Interlibrary Loan
- Catalog searches provide lists of both primary and secondary sources pertaining to students' topics of interest—*instant bibliographies*
- Montana History WIKI offers numerous resources for students, including quick facts and Newspaper Index
- The Montana Memory Project, a digital archive relating to Montana's cultural heritage.

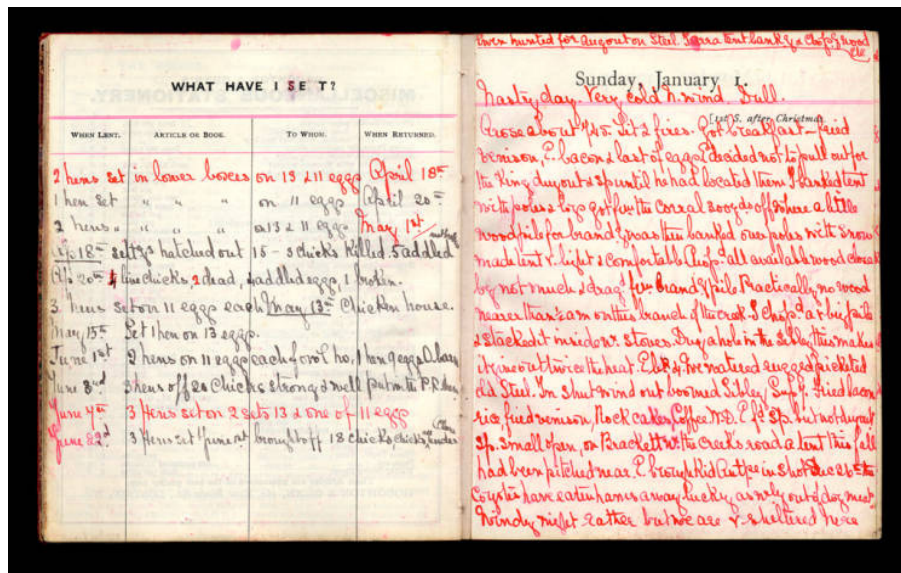


Figure 1: MC 226/Box 1 Evelyn J. & Ewen S. Cameron Papers

Telephone: (406)444-2681 225 N. Roberts St., Helena, MT 59620 Email: mhslibrary@mt.gov

Website: <http://www.montanahistoricalociety.org/research/default.asp>

Open hours: 9:00-5:00, Tuesday-Friday. The research center is also open most Saturdays from 9:00 to 1:00; Closed Sundays, Mondays, Holidays and Holiday Weekends. Please call ahead to confirm Saturday availability. For Saturday visits, please pre-order any desired archival materials. Orders must be called in by noon on Friday. Photo Archives hours: Tuesday-Friday, from 1:00 to 5:00.

The Montana Historical Society Research Center includes the Library, Archives, and Photo Archives. The Research Center collects, preserves, and provides access to a wide array of research collections, including manuscripts, government records, books, maps, and photographs about Montana and the West. These collections are open to the public for research or visiting. For more information about our collections, please explore our web page and online catalogs.

Searching the Catalog

A catalog search provides a list of both primary and secondary sources. While the Montana Historical Society Research Center is not a lending institution, there are several off-site uses for search results. For example, the source list can be used to create a bibliography, which you can then take to your local library. Arrange to Interlibrary Loan the sources you have identified from other Montana institutions!

The Montana Historical Society's collection of over 2,000 oral histories is also indexed. You can find instructions for Oral History Interlibrary Loans at <http://mhs.mt.gov/research/library/interlibrary.asp>.

To search the Montana Historical Society collections from home or school go to our webpage at: <http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/research/default.asp>.

From the Research Center page, click on "How to Search the Catalog" to view a screencast demonstration. A catalog search allows students an opportunity to discover what sources are available on their specific topic through the Montana Historical Society Research Center.



**Figure 2: Gerhke Boys & Friend, Libby, MT ca. 1915
Photographer unknown, Gift of Forrest L. De Rosia
Montana Historical Society Research Center Photo Archives, PAc 949-076**

Accessing the Montana History WIKI

The Montana History Wiki is a collection of information to help guide researchers to the resources available through the [Montana Historical Society Research Center](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/research/default.asp). It is designed to assist researchers in finding the best resources for their projects or topics as well as providing quick Montana facts. The wiki also contains collaborative projects designed to meet the needs of particular groups.

To access the Montana History WIKI, go to the webpage at <http://montanahistorywiki.pbwiki.com/>

Indexes and resources found on the Montana History WIKI include

- [Vertical File Index](#)—Biographical and Topical

- [Newspaper Index](#)—Indexed by County (Newspaper microfilm is available through ILL. See <http://mhs.mt.gov/research/library/interlibrary.asp> for details.)
- [WPA Index](#)
- Collaborative Projects
 - Lewis and Clark County History Project
 - [Montana County History](#)
- Montana Facts
 - Disasters in Montana
 - [Montana Firsts](#)
 - Montana Place Names
 - Montana Symbols
 - [Montana's Elected Officials](#)
- Montana Subject Guides and Links
 - African Americans in Montana
 - Cooking and Cookbooks
 - Fur Trade
 - Genealogy Guide and Guide for Searching Your Montana Property
 - Great Montana Resources
 - Labor History
 - Legislative History Guide
 - Mining in Montana
 - Montana Government History
 - Nineteenth Century Women/Women's Clubs
 - Resources on Montana's Indian Tribes
 - Water Rights
 - Weather in Montana

Of particular note: The WIKI provides indexes for the MHS microfilm newspaper holdings, which includes approximately 95% of the papers ever published in Montana in 2,000 bound volumes and 17,000 reels of microfilm. Microfilm is available through Interlibrary Loan. You can find instructions for Newspaper Interlibrary Loan here: <http://mhs.mt.gov/research/library/interlibrary.asp>

Exploring the Montana Memory Project

The Montana Memory Project is a cooperative project among participating Montana libraries and museums statewide. These institutions have posted digital copies of historic photographs, letters, diaries, and other types of documents. The number of items on the memory project can make searching slow. If you want to limit your search to the material posted by a particular institution or institutions (for example MHS Archives or the Parmly Billings Library) you will need to use the Advance Search function. Further instructions for searching the Montana Memory Project can be found under "Help" on the Montana Memory Project homepage.

To access the Montana Memory Project, go to the webpage at <http://www.mtmemory.org/>.